

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20024**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 850, §5, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

A treatment facility or program that receives and maintains accreditation from a national accrediting body approved by the department must be deemed in compliance with comparable state licensing rules upon its submission to the department of written evidence of compliance including, but not limited to, national accreditation approval, reports, findings and responses. The department may review compliance under this paragraph in response to a complaint against the facility or program.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §7801, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. National accreditation. A person, firm, corporation or association operating a program or facility described under subsection 1 that receives and maintains accreditation from a national accrediting body approved by the department must be deemed in compliance with comparable state licensing rules upon its submission to the department of written evidence of compliance including, but not limited to, national accreditation approval, reports, findings and responses. The department may review compliance under this subsection in response to a complaint against the program or facility.

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA §1203-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. National accreditation. An agency or facility required to obtain a license under this section that receives and maintains accreditation from a national accrediting body approved by the department must be deemed in compliance with comparable state licensing rules upon its submission to the department of written evidence of compliance including, but not limited to, national accreditation approval, reports, findings and responses. The department may review compliance under this subsection in response to a complaint against the agency or facility.’

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to approve and license substance abuse treatment, child and adult welfare and behavioral health agencies, programs and facilities accredited by nationally recognized accrediting bodies. The amendment simplifies the process and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to deem in compliance with state licensing rules those entities that receive and maintain accreditation by national accrediting bodies approved by the department. The department may review compliance with applicable accreditation requirements in response to a complaint.